

Marijuana Leaf Identification Technician/Field Investigation Drug Officer (FIDO) Courses

This information packed course will provide the necessary training to law enforcement officers and analysts in the identification of crushed marijuana submissions in order to facilitate their acceptance as subject matter expert witnesses in the courtroom setting.



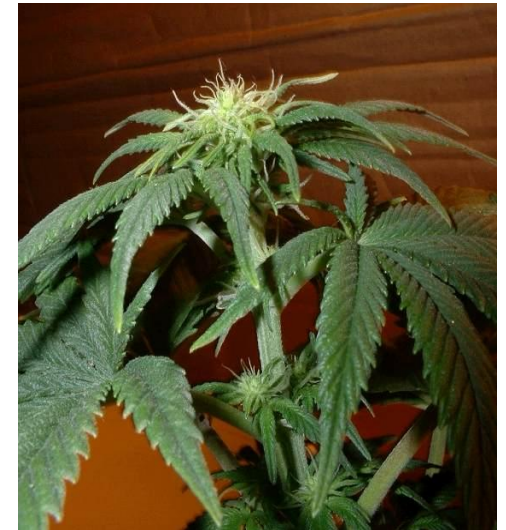
The **intensive** 4-day course covers the botany, chemistry and analysis of marijuana preparations and each applicant will be required to **pass** 3 written examinations, a laboratory competency test, ten mock cases as well as examine and chemically test several hundred botanical exhibits. **(Warning: It is not recommended that a candidate take this course unless they can apply their full resources to studying and preparing for each days examinations and lessons. The demand of the course is similar to the DRE program).**

After successful completion of this course, the marijuana leaf technician will assume responsibility for all of their agency's marijuana submissions. In the near future, the laboratory will serve as an advisor/mentor but will not provide marijuana analysis to agencies. **No marijuana evidence will be accepted at the state lab for processing after Dec. 31st, 2005.** This class is an opportunity to move into this new environment with trained analysts.

If an agency does not have a qualified marijuana leaf technician, a list will be provided to each student of qualified technicians in their area that may be able to assist them in the analysis of marijuana.



(Stereomicroscopic observation of an marijuana leaf fragment at 40X power)



(Picture of gross morphological features of a female marijuana plant)

Other benefits:

- Your agency will be able to process, test and testify to marijuana cases in your jurisdiction
- Your technician will be able to train other officers and the public on marijuana recognition
- Faster case turnaround time
- Less evidence transferred out of your evidence room
- The opportunity to recover cost and pay for the program through your local and city courts/fines

What else can you expect?

- You will be given all training information and resource material
- A certificate of qualification to serve as official documentation of your subject matter expertise
- Some moot court experience/questions that are the basis of most direct testimony and cross examination in the field of marijuana analysis
- Record keeping and case note instruction for scientific processes

Who Should Attend?

- Crime Scene/Lab Personnel
- Evidence Room Technicians
- Narcotic Task Force/Squad Members
- Detectives

Requirements:

1. Candidates must complete Marijuana Leaf ID Technician/FIDO Registration form: <http://site.utah.gov/dps/forensicservices/documents/MJFIDOREgForm.doc>
2. Candidates **must** have required equipment before attending class. You can start up a program for under \$1200.00 and maintain it around \$200.00 year. A list of current equipment requirements may be found at the following website: <http://forensicservices.utah.gov/>
3. Must re-certify yearly for Marijuana Leaf ID Technician and FIDO.
4. A \$75.00 registration fee (payable to DPS) **must** be sent for the Marijuana Leaf ID Course to the following address at the time of electronic registration (this will guarantee a spot):

Forensic Services
Attn: MJ Registration
(Utah State Crime Lab)
Box 148285
4501 South 2700 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-8285



(Officer interpreting the results from the Duquenois-Levine color test)

Field Investigation Drug Officer Course (FIDO):

The laboratory has also incorporated the FIDO class into the Marijuana Leaf Identification Technician Program. You will be given a kit which will allow you to screen for the following drugs:

- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine
- Heroin

Contact for FIDO :

Ryan Barney: (801) 503-8390
e-mail: rbarney@utah.gov

Contact for Marijuana Leaf ID Technician:

Justin Bechaver: (801) 957-8606
e-mail: jbechaver@utah.gov
or
Bryan Holden: (801) 440-9097
e-mail: bholden@utah.gov